

North Carolina
Department of Administration



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James B. Hunt, Jr., Governor
Joseph W. Grimsley, Secretary

N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs
A. Bruce Jones, Executive Director

September 18, 1981

Leon Locklear, Tribal Chief
Tuscarora Indian Tribe
Drowning Creek Reservation
Route 2, Box 108
Waxton, North Carolina 28364

Dear Chief Locklear:

The "Recognition Committee" of the Commission held a regular meeting on August 27, 1981 at 9:30 A.M. This meeting was held to discuss the petition of recognition submitted by the Tuscarora Tribe of Drowning Creek. A copy of the minutes of that meeting are attached for your information.

In keeping with the last paragraph of the motion passed by the committee I am detailing the specific areas of deficiency in the petition.

There are eight (8) criteria for recognition as a tribe by the Commission of Indian Affairs. These are listed below with a discussion of how the Tuscarora petition appears (to the staff) to meet these criteria. Only five (5) need to be met.

1. Traditional North Carolina Indian Names:

The sixty-seven (67) names submitted on the tribal role do appear to meet this requirement.

2. Kinship relationship with other recognized Indian tribes:

There is nothing in the petition that addresses this requirement.

3. Official records, such as birth, church, school or other recognizing the people as Indian:

No such documentation is attached to the petition.

4. Letter or statements from state or federal authorities recognizing the people as Indian:

No such documentation is attached to the petition.

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5. Anthropological or historical accounts tied to the tribes' Indian ancestry:

~~The historical accounts are extremely sketchy. There is nothing that ties the present people to the history listed. There is no current historical definition or description of the people to identify them in any special way.~~

6. Letters or statements from presently recognized tribes or groups or their representative attesting to the Indian heritage of the tribe:

No such documentation is attached to the petition.

7. Any other documented traditions, customs, legends, etc. that signify the tribes' Indian heritage:

No such documentation is attached to the petition.

8. Participation in or grants from sources or programs designated for Indians only:

There is no mention of this in the petition.

In summary, only criteria #1 appears to be met; however, the requirement that the members of the tribe be one-quarter blood Indian has not been addressed in the petition.

Please call me if I can be of further help.

Sincerely,



A. Bruce Jones, Executive Director
North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs

ABJ:vw

cc: Chief Richardson

Attachment